

the Kilowatt

MAY 2012

published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

Closed Memorial Day

Kiwash Electric Cooperative will close on May 28 in observance of Memorial Day. To report a power outage during this time, please call **888-832-3362**.

Have a safe holiday!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Want to beat the heat? Run appliances like dishwashers and dryers late in the evening to keep heat they give off from affecting your comfort. Use cold water to wash clothes, and remember to unplug electric chargers, televisions, and any electronic items when you are not using them. Learn more ways to save at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

—TOUCHSTONE ENERGY



BILL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Kiwash Electric
120 W. 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma

Pay online:
www.kiwash.coop

Custer City Hall
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank
Thomas, Oklahoma



Copper crime hits home

Metal prices drive recent thefts

Soaring metal prices are blamed for recent damages along Kiwash Electric Cooperative lines. General Manager Dennis Krueger said the damages were caused by copper thieves stealing grounding wire from utility poles. Kiwash Electric personnel have found 17 damaged poles so far.

Copper and aluminum are the primary components of electric distribution lines, making electric utilities particularly vulnerable to copper thieves.

As Krueger pointed out, thefts of copper wire and equipment cause power outages, additional maintenance and expenses, and diminish service reliability and safety for every co-op member.

"Stealing grounding wire from poles deteriorates our ability to get lightning off the wires and into the soil, which can affect every meter near these poles," he said. "We work hard to create a reliable and dependable electric distribution system for all of our members; yet, these robbers makes our system vulnerable to future storms and lightning."

Copper wire appeals to thieves who sell the metal for scrap. Burglars climb poles, scale fences, and break into buildings to steal the precious metal, lured by the a whopping 542 percent increase in the price of copper since 2001. In 2009, the price for copper was around \$1.25 a pound. More recently, the price has climbed as high \$4 a pound.

Last year, one Oklahoma electric co-op faced an estimated \$1 million repair bill because copper thieves wrecked a substation for \$100 worth of the metal. In New Mexico, a man was electrocuted while trying to cut

copper wiring from a live transformer. Similar accidents have been reported across the country.

"Stealing copper is costly, and it's not worth a life. Working with any metal and electricity is dangerous, even for trained employees using proper equipment."

Stolen wire is commonly brought to recycling centers and traded for cash. Without identifying marks, stolen wire is hard to track and is rarely recovered.

The rampant theft of copper nationwide—and the subsequent damage to utility infrastructure—is causing states to take action.

Oklahoma, Florida, Hawaii, and Michigan elevated the illegal possession of a large amount of copper wire to a felony. The F.B.I.

says it considers theft of copper wire to be a threat to the nation's baseline ability to function.

Here at home, Kiwash Electric is asking members to help by reporting unusual activity. If you see anyone other than co-op personnel or contractors around substations or other electric facilities, call the police or sheriff immediately, and then call Kiwash Electric at **888-832-3362**.

Help Kiwash Electric deter thieves

If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, or hanging wire, contact Kiwash Electric immediately at **888-832-3362**. If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than co-op personnel or contractors, call the police or sheriff immediately.





A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

**KIWASH ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

*Providing the service
that lights up your life.*

Office Location

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120 W. 1st Street
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INSIDE YOUR CO-OP



By Dennis Krueger
GENERAL MANAGER

Educating yourself beyond the norm

Kiwash directors keep up with a rapidly changing industry

Continuing education is the key to understanding new and complicated issues. For instance, Kiwash Electric Cooperative is involved in the electric utility industry, which is changing rapidly with new technology and regulations. We are being pulled into being more environmental friendly by the federal government and certain so-called 'ecology' activists. Meanwhile, consumers are asking for affordable electric rates. The two will soon clash if we stay on our present political course.

Kiwash and our nearly 900 sister electric cooperatives across the nation were founded on the grass roots principles of sweat equity, involvement, education and participation. Rural folks that founded the electric cooperative movement were willing to risk total involvement to move rural life from darkness and poverty into the light and prosperity. During the Depression of the 1930s cooperative pioneer, backed by an Executive Order from President Franklin D. Roosevelt on May 11, 1935, changed life in rural America.

After establishing a local cooperative, neighbors helped neighbors by hand-digging power pole holes with a unique set of tools called a banjo (a cup shaped shovel with long handles) and spoon (a straight bladed shovel with long handles). Those poles were hoisted into place by hand using homemade trough like gaffs with long handles. It was hard work and it took a community of friends working together to make it happen.

Electric co-ops and their boards now operate in an increasingly complex utility marketplace. Boards are challenged to address multiple large-scale issues, including rising costs, climate-change, power supply constraints, and heightened scrutiny of corporate governance practices — all within the context of a global economic crisis.

Thankfully, the Kiwash Electric board of directors have taken the time to re-educate themselves on these issues. Our national organization (NRECA) sponsors a wide range of education opportunities each year. These include courses and workshops for directors, executives and staff and

have been designed specifically for electric co-ops to enhance effectiveness in serving their members.

All seven Kiwash directors have earned their cooperative director (CCD) certificate from NRECA and three have successfully completed their board leadership certification (BLC) while networking and sharing solutions with fellow directors from co-ops across the country.

In this era of increased scrutiny of boards and directors, it is more important than ever for directors to understand their roles and responsibilities and to have the knowledge and skills to govern today's cooperatives. NRECA's director education programs are specifically designed to address the learning needs of electric cooperative directors. Training courses offered address board governance, financial decision-making, strategic planning, and current and emerging issues. We believe the Kiwash directors are doing their part to keep pace with this ever changing industry.



INSTANT WEATHER ALERTS

START NOW FOR FREE

Get emergency weather bulletins via email or text message, plus updates from your co-op during emergency situations, with IMapAlert. This free service includes seven day forecasts to your email box and more. Visit www.kiwash.coop to download IMapAlert, or contact your co-op for details at **888-832-3362**

meet our MINI MEMBERS



Matt and Debbie Norman of Hobart share this photo of daughter Alexa with her daughter Haidyn on vacation in Destin, FL. Haidyn, age 7 months, is thrilled with the water.



Karen and Danny Wedel of Cordell share this photo of their grandchildren Zane Cragg, Zachary Cragg, McKenna Wedel, and Ryan Wedel on the beach in Galeston, TX. Zane and Zachary are the children of Shelley and Scott Cragg of Piedmont, OK. McKenna and Ryan are children of Karla and Greg Wedel, Cordell.



Share your photos

Share pictures of your kids or grandkids in the *Kiwash Kilowatt*. **The theme for June is "Summer League."** Please send your photos by May 11, 2012 to Mini Members, Kiwash Electric Cooperative, 120 W. 1st Street, Cordell, OK 73632, or email pics to lwillard@kiwash.coop. Please include your name, phone number, children's names, parent's names, and hometown. Please make a copy—images cannot be returned.

Save energy while on vacation

If you're planning a vacation this summer, make sure you give your home energy use a break, too. These tips will help you save while you're away.

- **Water heater.** Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away.
- **Thermostat.** Turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning system. You'll save energy while ensuring your home doesn't get too warm. During winter, lower the temperature on your furnace. The house can be as cool as 50 degrees without the risk of your pipes freezing.
- **Refrigerator.** Depending on the food in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your

refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature remains at minus 5 degrees.

- **Lights.** Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.
- **Electronics.** Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit www.TogetherWeSave.com, or contact Kiwash Electric Cooperative at **888-832-3362**.

Recipe Box

Make Ahead Sour Cream Coffee Cake

INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup butter, softened	1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup white sugar	1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 eggs	1/2 teaspoon salt
1 (8 ounce) carton sour cream	3/4 cup packed brown sugar
2 cups all-purpose flour	1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

DIRECTIONS

Grease and flour a 9x13-inch baking pan. Beat butter and white sugar in a bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Beat eggs and sour cream into butter mixture until smooth.

Whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, and salt together in a bowl until thoroughly combined; stir into the sour cream mixture to make a batter. Pour the batter into the prepared baking dish. Mix the brown sugar, pecans, and cinnamon in a bowl; sprinkle the mixture over the batter. Cover the baking dish with plastic wrap and chill 8 hours to overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Remove plastic wrap from the dish; bake until a toothpick inserted into the center of the coffee cake comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes. Yield: 15 servings.



PLAY IT SAFE

Safety devices your home needs

Protect loved ones from electrical mishaps

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and East Central Electric Cooperative is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to raise awareness about the importance of home safety devices. Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), and tamper resistant receptacles (TRRs) are easy, affordable ways to protect your home and loved ones from electrical accidents.

◆ Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)

An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices. Arcing faults are one of the major causes of home electrical fires. AFCIs replace standard circuit breakers in the home's electrical service panel and provide a higher level of electrical fire protection by detecting hazardous arcing conditions and shutting down the electricity before a fire can start.

While AFCIs were originally only required to protect bedroom circuits, the 2011 National Electrical Code (NEC) requires that this technology be installed in additional areas of the home, including dining rooms and living rooms. Although the new safety requirements apply to newly constructed homes, older homes with aging wiring systems can also benefit from the added protection provided by AFCIs.

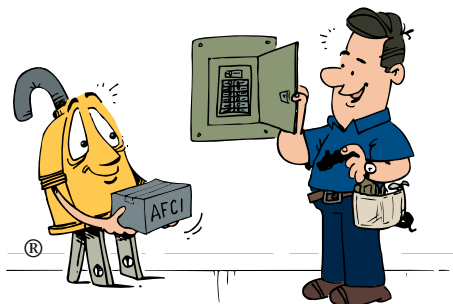
AFCIs should only be installed or replaced by a licensed, qualified electrician. Remember to test them monthly to ensure they are working properly.

◆ Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)

A GFCI is a device designed to protect people from shock and electrocution. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, GFCIs could prevent over two-thirds of home electrocutions that occur each year.

GFCIs constantly monitor electricity flowing in a circuit, and quickly switch off power if they sense any loss of current. GFCIs can be installed at the main service panel, in place of standard electrical outlets, or can be used as a portable device. Typically, GFCIs are installed in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as the bathroom, garage, kitchen, and basement.

GFCIs should be tested monthly, as they can be damaged as a result of voltage



surges from lightning, utility switching or normal usage. While GFCIs should be installed by a licensed electrician, portable GFCIs require no tools to install.

◆ Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)

TRRs look just like ordinary outlets, but are designed with spring-loaded receptacle cover plates that close off the receptacle openings, or slots. When equal pressure is simultaneously applied to both sides, the receptacle cover plates open to allow the standard plug to make contact with the receptacle contact points. Without simultaneous pressure, the cover plates remain closed, preventing insertion of foreign objects and protecting your children from painful, traumatic electrical injuries.

Every year in the United States, more than 2,400 children under ten years old are treated in hospital emergency rooms for electric shock or burns caused by tampering with a wall outlet, which could be prevented by installing TRRs in the home.

Tamper resistant receptacles have proven to be so effective that the 2011 National Electrical Code (NEC) requires installation of TRRs in all new homes. TRRs should be installed by a licensed, qualified electrician.

For information on electrical safety or to report an electrical safety hazard, please call **888-832-3362**, or visit www.kiwash.coop.



in Kiwash Country

■ MAY

- 3 National Day of Prayer Breakfast, Western Technology Center, tickets \$10. 580-726-2553
- 5 Art in the Park, Clinton, 580-323-2222
- 13 Mother's Day
- 14 Armed Forces Day
- 18 Legislative Luncheon, 11:30 am, Hobart. Location to be announced. 580-726-2553
- 25-26 Cordell Roundup Club Open Rodeo, Rodeo Grounds, Cordell 580-832-3781
- 25-26 Celebration of Freedom, Hobart, 580-726-2553
- 25-26 Route 66 Festival, Clinton 580-323-2222
- 28 Memorial Day

■ JUNE

- 12-16 Oklahoma FreeWheel. More than 1,000 bicyclists travel from Frederick Oklahoma across the state. 918-344-5987
- 15-16 Heartland Cruise Car Show, Main Street and Rader Park, Weatherford. Classic cars cruise Route 66 on Friday evening. Car Show on Saturday. 580-772-5234
- 23 Lavender Festival, Apache

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

Kiwash Electric Cooperative promotes local festivals, rodeos, fairs and other events in our monthly newsletter, the *Kilowatt*. Calendar listings are free.



Please send details to: Lisa Willard, Kiwash Electric, PO Box 100, Cordell, OK 73632, or send e-mail to: lwillard@kiwash.coop. Please send event listings by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

If you have questions about submitting an event, or need to speak with a Kiwash representative about other matters, please call **888-832-3362**, or visit www.kiwash.coop.